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## PRESS RELEASE

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May 20, 2004

### Rules for Shipping Alcohol Stateside Change

HEIDELBERG, GE – Many Americans start a wine collection while stationed in Europe and want to send it to the United States when their overseas tour ends; however, personnel need to be aware of recent changes in how the Department of the Army reimburses personnel on shipments of alcohol.

As in the past, personnel must find a local commercial exporter to ship their collection and comply with individual State and Internal Revenue Service rules, since alcohol cannot be shipped as part of household goods (HHGs) nor through the U.S. postal service.

Before, the Government reimbursed personnel for the entire cost of that separate shipment, but that has changed. The government will now only reimburse personnel up to the amount it would have cost to ship the same weight of HHGs with a government carrier.

To ship alcoholic beverages to the United States, follow these steps:

First ask the local Transportation Officer (TO) for permission to personally procure an alcohol shipment. Written permission from the TO is required when filing for reimbursement. You will be reimbursed for your shipment, but only as much as it would cost to ship the same weight of household goods with the Government carrier. For example, if you ship 300 pounds of wine, you will only be reimbursed for what it would have cost to ship 300 pounds of regular HHG by a government-contracted HHG carrier. This is the change from the old system, under which you would have been reimbursed for the full cost of the alcohol shipment. You should keep in mind that the new reimbursement system most likely will not cover the entire cost of the shipment.

Once you have written permission from the TO, you can contact the alcohol control board for the state you intend to ship the collection to and ask for the conditions imposed on alcohol shipments; quoting the amount, type and cost of the alcohol. They will let you know the rules for importing alcohol and how to pay any tax that needs to be paid. Then, if the state authorities allow alcohol shipments, find a local merchant who ships alcohol collections internationally. Most Transportation Officers maintain a list of local companies that can perform this service.

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## **WINE/2/2/2/2**

When you arrive stateside, you need to go to the airport's cargo section with the shipping documents where you will be given additional paperwork to take to the Customs Office. Customs will work out the duty and IRS tax and stamp the customs clearance. Then take your customs clearance back to the cargo section where the collection is released to you.

Customs officials report that the duty on still wine is currently 8.4 cents per liter, but increases to 19.8 cents for sparkling wine. IRS tax depends on the alcoholic strength of the beverage concerned and works out to around six cents per liter for wine.

Follow these rules and you can continue to enjoy some of the best products of the Old World at your new stateside home for many years to come. Call a military customs office to find out more about shipping liquor products to the United States or consult the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms web site at [www.atf.treas.gov/alcohol/info/persimp.htm](http://www.atf.treas.gov/alcohol/info/persimp.htm). Links to state alcohol control boards can be found at [www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/state.htm](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil/opm/state.htm).